

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Tsuneaki OHASHI

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: CORROSION-RESISTIVE MEMBERS

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

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Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 3 and 6-9 as follows:

3. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1, wherein one or more metal elements selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table are contained in a total amount of 1 to 15 mol% in said silicon nitride sintered body as calculated externally in the form of the metal element(s) relative to said silicon nitride.

6. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 3, wherein at least one of said one or more metal elements selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table is in the form of an oxide.

7. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1, which has a thermal conductivity of $50 \text{ W/m} \cdot \text{K}$ or less.
8. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1, wherein the corrosive gas is a halogen-based corrosive gas or a plasma of the halogen-based corrosive gas.
9. (Amended) A semiconductor-producing article comprising the corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1 as a substrate.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending herein. Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

Attached hereto (page 4 of the current Amendment) captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

October 18, 2001

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3 and 6-9 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein one or more metal elements selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table are contained in a total amount of 1 to 15 mol% in said silicon nitride sintered body as calculated externally in the form of the metal element(s) relative to said silicon nitride.

6. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in ~~any one of~~ claims 3 to 5, wherein ~~comprises an oxide of~~ at least one **of said one or more metal elements** element selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table **is in the form of an oxide**.

7. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 6, which has a thermal conductivity of 50 W/m · K or less.

8. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 7, wherein the corrosive gas is a halogen-based corrosive gas or a plasma of the halogen-based corrosive gas.

9. (Amended) A semiconductor-producing article comprising the corrosion-resistive member set forth in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 8 as a substrate.